

Remarks

Claims 37-53 are currently pending and stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 37-51 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention and cancelled claims 52-53. None of the amendments are substantive in nature, and Applicant respectfully requests that they be entered and that the claims be allowed to issue.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

In the Office Action dated November 17, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 37-53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as indefinite, specifically stating that it is unclear whether the applicant is claiming the subcombination of a couple or the combination of a couple and a pair of organizers. Applicant has amended independent claims 37, 44 and 53 to more particularly point out the invention, that is, the combination of a pair of organizers and a couple for coupling the pair of organizers. The Examiner has stated that claims 37-51 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2. Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendment to independent claim 37, its dependent claims 38-43, independent claim 44 and its dependent claims 45-51 place the claims in condition for allowance according to the Examiner's suggestion in the November 17, 2004 Office Action.

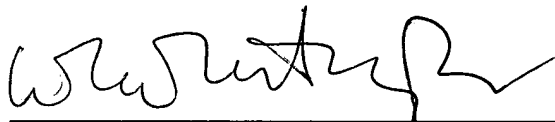
Further, Applicant has amended independent claim 52 and its dependent claim 53 to mirror the amendments made to claims 37-51, specifically clarifying the system of coupling instrument organizers to include the combination of the pair of instruments and the couple.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 52 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,072,835 to Price et al. The Examiner has rejected claim 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,145,655 Darlak in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,882,660 to Denton. Applicant has cancelled claims 52 and 53.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 37-51, all remaining claims in the application, are in order for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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